

303

1912 Dates. J-BK

General persecution of Christians
but discouraged in his
province by Constantius

Persecution of Christians under
Proletarian

February 30 3

DURANT

The 4 rules decreed the destruction of all Christian Churches, the burning of Christian books, the dissolution of Christian congregations, the confiscation of their property, the exclusion of Christian congregations, the punishment of death for Christians detected in religious assembly.

A band of soldiers burned to the ground

the Cathedral at ~~HEOP~~ NICOMEDIA.

303-311

Diocletian persecution

INDICTION appears for 1st time
in tax receipts for Egypt.
and probably took its origin
in a periodic 15-yr taxation
census that followed DIOCLETIAN's
reconquest of Egypt in AD 297

24 Feb 303

Most emperors of the 3rd century had promoted the worship of the sun as a unifying theme, a cult which few of their subjects would have difficulty in accepting. Diocletian instead went back to the traditional Roman gods as Jove and Hercules; This was to have dire consequences for the Christians who by now formed a large minority group within the army and the imperial administration. The first blow fell in 297 or 298, when Diocletian issued

an order requiring all soldiers and administrators to sacrifice to the gods; those who refused were forced to quit the service. Then on 24 Feb 303 an edict was issued ordering the destruction of churches and scriptures throughout the empire, and the punishment of leading Christians. Further edicts later the same year ordered the arrest and imprisonment of the entire Christian clergy; they were released only after they had sacrificed to the traditional gods.

Nov 30 3

Diocletian was in Rome for a grand triumphal celebration and other festivities marking the beginning of his 20th year of rule.

Nov/Dec 303

The decline of the senate corresponded with a decline in the importance of Rome itself, which had ceased to be a major imperial residence by the later 3rd century. It was simply too distant from the critical frontier regions.

Macellum visited the city only once for certain, in Nov/Dec 303. Imperial government was in any case peripatetic by nature, the centre of power was wherever the emperor happened to be at the time - nonetheless

under the TETRARCHS, former residences did
take on the trapping of imperial capitals: MILAN
and TRIER in the West, Thessalonica & NICOMEDIA
in the east.

Diocletian

Tenth persecution under
DIO CLETIAN. It surpassed all
others in violence & cruelty.

St. Sebastian, tribune of the imperial
guard suffered a lingering death,
shot with arrows. St. Anastasia
+ St. Lucia of Syracuse + others
were martyred. St. Catherine a
noble and learned virgin of
Alexandria who had reproached

Caesar valentius for his cruelty
died by the sword

Dec 30 3

Diocletian left Rome for Ravenna.
During this journey, he became ill &
had to be taken in a litter.

303-311

Persecution of Christians

303

Persecution of Christians

Edict for suppression of
Christianity, which
Constantine declines to enforce.
The last of Diocletian persecution

303 → 305 AD

Diocletian's great persecution
of the Christians

303-311 AD

Emperor Diocletian persecuted the Christians. Longest and most systematic campaign against the Christians who now comprised perhaps $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the population.

303-311 AD

The last persecution of Christians
in Rome.

303 AD

Persecution broke out under
Diocletian: It was particularly
violent in 304 AD

303-311 AD

General Great Persecution
of Christians under DIOCLETIAN